

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Wunmi

OFFERING: Bola

WORD: Pastor

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Philippians 4:8 (NLT)

GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

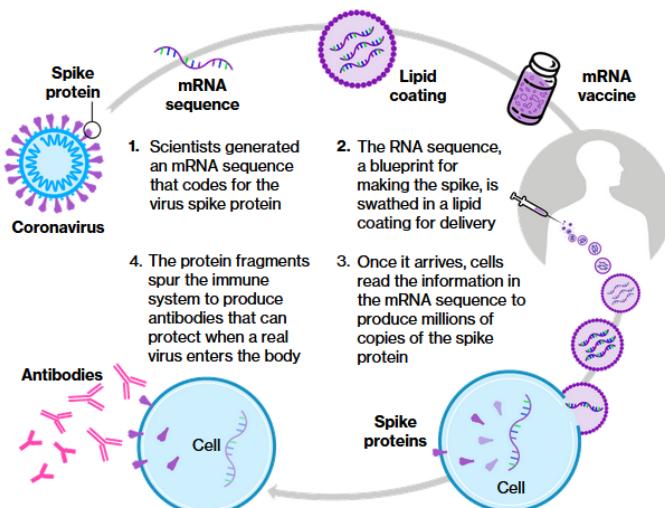
To build a church that is **growing, healthy and full of love**, do you have comments, ideas or suggestions? If so, please talk to the Pastor or a minister.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you could join most of our services online when **you are unable to attend**? Talk to the technical team or the Pastor to find out how.

How mRNA Vaccines Work

The vaccine spurs healthy cells to produce viral proteins that stimulate a potent immune response



Sources: Pfizer, Bloomberg research

Sources <https://www.corona-stocks.com/heres-how-the-pfizer-and-moderna-vaccines-stack-up/>



Sunday 13 December 2020

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

Unit 13, Skylines Village
Limeharbour, London E14 9TS
PHONE: 07889906677 || EMAIL: admin@rccgbethel.church
WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



Home Our Focus About us Contact Us Sermons Privacy Policy



Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too (<http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/>). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (<http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

Google Chrome

1. Open the browser and the **Settings** menu (or the **three vertical dots** to the right of the menu bar).
2. Scroll down and click on **Advanced Settings**.
3. Select **Open a specific page or set of pages** under **On Startup**.
4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add <http://rccgbethel.church/>.

Mozilla Firefox

1. Open Firefox. Press **Alt-T** on the keyboard and select **Options** from the drop-down menu or go to **Tools >> Options** from the main menu.
2. In the **Home** section, select **Homepage and new windows** and **Custom URLs...** from the field's drop down.
3. Enter or paste the URL: <http://rccgbethel.church/> or click **Use Current Page** if you are already on our website.

Microsoft Edge

1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
2. Select **Settings** and select **A Specific Page or Pages** from the **Open Microsoft Edge With** section drop down options.
3. Enter <http://rccgbethel.church/>. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Vaccine and Christianity

Text: John 5:1-9; 14

God created us with immune system to protect us. But over time, some diseases may leave us vulnerable or weak, unable to fight off some viruses, especially those that mutate or are new. Vaccines trigger our immune systems to respond either through taking a shot of the weakened virus or purified proteins (antigens) of the virus.

COVID-19 vaccines currently in use are based on mRNA (messenger RNA –RiboNucleic Acid) technology. Instead of a weakened virus or the viral protein, we get the gene material – mRNA – which helps our cells to make the viral protein. mRNA is a synthetic and not extracted from actual viruses. Also, it only stays active in the body for only a few days before it decays. Meanwhile, its immune memory is retained so our immune system can react the same way again if necessary.

Should we take vaccines?

We could answer this question in several ways. A medical historian called H.E. Sigerist once said "**Christianity came into the world as the religion of healing.**" We see proof of this in the life of Jesus too, who sometimes implied a direct link between sin and illness. So, it's probably no wonder that we do the same, wondering if our sins made us ill (John 9:1-2).

So, it may be customary to ask that we depend on God for healing. Considering this, we could perhaps conclude we need prayers, perhaps for forgiveness of sins, and not vaccines or other man-made medicines for COVID-19. In other words, should we wait for God to heal us instead of taking vaccines, perhaps as a show of faith?

One thing to consider is that God gave man the intelligence for the advances we see today, including medical ones. And there's precedence in the bible. In 1 Timothy 5:23, we read about Paul's counsel to Timothy to stop drinking water and wine to settle his stomach and cater for some frequent ailments. We also have reasons to assume Paul would probably counsel the same about vaccines if they were created in his time (1 Cor 10:23).

Furthermore, if we believe we've been sent to spread the good news (Matt 28:19-20), healing is a big part, following in Jesus' footsteps. Just as we would care for ourselves, it is part of our ministry to care for our neighbour (Mark 12:31). By taking the vaccine, we could be preventing the spread of COVID-19 virus, helping ourselves and our neighbours.

Ultimately, it is a decision we have to make for ourselves, taking care not to be swept away by irrelevant conspiracy theories and unfounded claims about vaccines or other medicines. We've recently been challenged to prove by the way we live that we love and believe in Christ. If we trust in the Holy Spirit to guide us in the truth of God's will, we can discern for ourselves what is true (John 17:14-19) and trust in God to bear us home to him (Phil 1:6).

Bottom line:

We should be like the Berean Jews described in Acts 17:11 and test everything (1 Thess 5:21), searching out the **truth**. We can also trust that God can make everything work together for our good (Rom 8:28).

For more:

About mRNA: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3597572/>

mRNA does not change genes: <https://www.modernatx.com/about-mrna> (see FAQ 2)

RCCG Bethel Parish
Pillar of truth ... defining the future today